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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/531,774	04/19/2005	Wilhelm Pinkernell	PINKERNELL, W. 1 PCT	6040
25889	7590	03/06/2006	EXAMINER	
WILLIAM COLLARD COLLARD & ROE, P.C. 1077 NORTHERN BOULEVARD ROSLYN, NY 11576			OLSON, LARS A	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3617	

DATE MAILED: 03/06/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/531,774	Applicant(s) PINKERNELL, WILHELM	
	Examiner Lars A. Olson	Art Unit 3617	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 February 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. An amendment was received from the applicant on February 21, 2006.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1-3 and 6-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Podesta (US 4,158,416).

Podesta discloses the same vessel as claimed, as shown in Figures 1-12, that is comprised of a hull, defined as Part #1, with a structural unit in the form of an overhang bow segment, defined as Part #18, located above the waterline of said vessel, where said overhang bow segment is capable of being moved between open and closed positions, as shown in Figure 4. Hydraulic cylinders, defined as Parts #33 and 33a, are provided for moving said structural unit between said open and closed positions. Locking means, defined as Parts #21 and 21a, are also provided for securing said structural unit in said closed position.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 4 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Podesta in view of Jeswine (US 5,642,686).

Podesta, as set forth above, discloses all of the features claimed except for the use of a hull with a transverse bulkhead that closes off said hull behind a folding bow segment.

Jeswine discloses a vessel, as shown in Figures 1-10, that includes a folding bow segment, defined as Part #40, that is pivotally attached to a hull, defined as Part #16, where said hull has a transverse bulkhead, defined as Part #30, that faces said bow segment when said bow segment is in a closed position, as shown in Figure 5, and closes off said hull when said bow segment is in an open or folded position, as shown in Figure 6.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention, to utilize a transverse bulkhead behind a folding bow segment, as taught by Jeswine, in combination with the vessel as disclosed by Podesta for the purpose of providing a vessel having a folding bow segment and a hull that remains closed when said folding bow segment is in either an open or a closed position in order to allow said vessel to have optional length for carrying additional cargo or passengers.

Response to Arguments

6. Applicant's arguments filed on February 21, 2006 regarding claims 1-9 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.
7. The applicant argues that Podesta (US 4,158,416) and Jeswine (US 5,642,686) do not show or suggest all of the features as claimed.
8. In response to the applicant's argument, Podesta clearly discloses a vessel with a hull having an overhanging bow segment that is located above the waterline of said vessel, where said bow segment is capable of being moved between open and closed positions. Therefore, the rejection of claims 1-3 and 6-9 is deemed proper and is not withdrawn.

Jeswine discloses a vessel with a folding bow segment that is pivotally attached to a hull of said vessel, where said hull has a transverse bulkhead that faces said bow segment when said bow segment is in a closed position, and closes off said hull when said bow segment is in an open position. Thus, there is sufficient motivation to combine the transverse bulkhead behind a folding bow segment as disclosed by Jeswine with the vessel as disclosed by Podesta for the purpose of providing a vessel with a folding bow segment and a hull that remains closed when said folding bow segment is in either an open or closed position in order to allow said vessel to have optional length for carrying additional cargo or passengers. Therefore, the rejection of claims 4 and 5 is deemed proper and is not withdrawn.

Conclusion

9. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication from the examiner should be directed to Exr. Lars Olson whose telephone number is (571) 272-6685.

lo

March 2, 2006

LARS A. OLSON
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Lars Olson
3/2/06